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Volume CXXIX



THE FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Pink The Rink
Raises Over \$100,000
Since Start**

See More on Page 18

University Bookstore Changes Book Provider

Upcoming UPD Safety Seminar

Alumni Band Releases Debut EP

On and Off the Ice: Craig McCabe

Local Native Set to Coach in Super Bowl

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Front cover: Men's ice hockey player prepares for Pink the Rink in locker room.

Back: Jack Schlifke's #32 jersey honors Jackie Krzal, a Fredonia alum who was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in April 2022. This year, the back of each player's jersey contained the names of every single person who has ever appeared on the back of a jersey since the event started at Fredonia in 2008 in lieu of surpassing over \$100,000 dollars. The names can be seen on the back of the jersey in faded pink bold letters.

Photographs by KAYLA WELSH | Special To The Leader.



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Happy Birthday, Elmer!

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

New Dean of the School of Business envisions student growth

CHLOE KOWALYK
Managing Editor

SUNY Fredonia's school of business is welcoming a new face this semester. Dr. Kaustav Misra has been named the new dean of the school of business.

But Misra isn't just a typical incoming administrative figure — Misra is a first generation immigrant.

He came to the United States on his own, placing himself in a new country with a new environment and new people.

While Misra has been a U.S. citizen and in the United States for a while, he said, "I am still actually going through this journey and I'm loving it. [I met] a lot of good people and that is why I am here."



Dr. Kaustav Misra.

Prior to accepting his position as the new dean of the school of business at Fredonia, Misra has held several leadership positions and has a vast educational background. He was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi; a professor, associate professor and assistant professor at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan; and held several chair positions and served as the associate dean of the school of business at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

As the associate dean at CCSU, Misra focused on increasing student recruitment and retention, organized faculty workshops and helped develop new graduate programs for the university.

But now, Misra is adding a new college to his list: SUNY Fredonia. He said he chose to accept the position as dean of the school of business for two key reasons.

First, Misra said he admires regional, public schools because they are "community focused." He pointed out that SUNY Fredonia is a community-focused college, which fits well into the environment he likes to work in.

Second, Misra said, "I loved the [faculty and students] when I visited ... and I think there is a lot of opportunity to provide the students a good experience when they come to the school or to the school of business."

"I have a lot of respect and interest to help first generation students grow."

While he doesn't officially begin his position until March 6, Misra has many ideas he would like to bring to SUNY Fredonia.

Misra feels that SUNY's school of business curriculum should be revisited and modernized. In fact, Misra said "to provide proper, current and relevant education to [his] business students" is the top priority.

Additionally, Misra hopes to develop faculty members so they can provide the best possible education to Fredonia students. Misra also hopes he can work on "developing and concentrating work on infrastructure."

"I'm going to be concentrating on student access," Misra said. "So as we develop new curriculum, we need to concentrate on how to give [students] the right type of internship, taking them to study abroad and giving them global experience."

Misra also emphasized the community-focus he admires about SUNY Fredonia. He believes that if the college improves its connection with the community, the enrollment and retention numbers will increase.

Efforts to increase recruitment and retention at SUNY Fredonia are particularly important, as the college's enrollment numbers have been on the decline within the past decade.

Not only does Misra hope to improve the school of business' curriculum and academics, but he also wants to advocate for students.

"In my mind, I'm still in the classroom. So I see the challenges," Misra said. "I see the students, what they face."

He plans to ask for more student resources, modernize the curriculum, develop new computer labs, new workshops and working areas.

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Misra also wants to help develop his students to become professionals. To do this, he hopes to create weekly or bi-weekly workshops in which students can listen to people working in the business industry.

Misra also wishes to help students network, and hopes that all students will be able to get at least one internship before graduation.

And, as a first generation immigrant, Misra wants to work with first generation students at SUNY Fredonia. Misra said when he was reviewing the college, he saw that a high number of Fredonia's students are first generation.

"I have a lot of respect and interest to help first generation students grow," he said.

SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison was fond of Misra while searching for a new dean.

The college did a vast, national search to find a new dean. They even hired a search firm to help them find the perfect fit for the school of business.

According to Kolison, Misra "has quite an array of experience that [he draws] will be good for our institution." For instance, Misra understands the accreditation process quite well.

And, currently, the school of business is about to go through their accreditation process.

Kolison said he also admired how Misra "suggested some new things [and] different types of programs in the school of business that would benefit a lot of students."

The president also wanted to emphasize how Misra would be accessible to students. Although he is an administrative figure, Misra is someone who students can go to with any questions they may have.

However, many may wonder why SUNY Fredonia has just hired a new dean, despite having financial difficulties.

Kolison explains that "a stable, effective and empowered leadership matters," and that it is much more beneficial for the college to have the dean of the school of business position filled, rather than having interim deans. Since Kolison came into the college in 2020, there had been two interim deans of the school of business. But now, the position is filled.

With a stable leadership, Kolison says that the college will be better off for the accreditation process and applying for grants.



Fredonia's Strategic Plan

The answer to the budget problems?

DAN QUAGLIANA
Special to The Leader

There is an open secret around campus that SUNY Fredonia is running a budget deficit. In a nutshell, this means that the university is spending more money than it brings in.

According to a WKBW article published on Dec. 22, 2022, "the UUP [United University Professions] says the projected deficit at Fredonia is \$16.8 million."

Why is this happening? In short: declining enrollment.

Fall 2021 was the first semester that could be considered to be "after" COVID on campus. Yes, masks still had to be worn at the time, but other than that, most operations went back to normal. Classes were (mostly) in person, and nothing on campus was closed for health reasons. Enrollment, by everyone's guess, would start increasing after this sense of "normalcy" returned. And yet, that didn't happen.

According to the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System, the total enrollment for the Fall 2021 semester consisted of 3,764 students.

These enrollment statistics were achieved through a series of intercon-

nected surveys conducted annually by a subdivision within the United States Department of Education. However, the total enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester was only 3,553 students, according to Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Starrett. These numbers include both undergraduate and graduate students.

Clearly, the university is experiencing declining enrollment, which is feeding our growing deficit. This is the main reason why the contract with Tim Hortons could not be renewed to keep their on-campus location open; the costs were simply too great to justify the rewards. So what is being done about this?

The Strategic Planning Committee is a special board that has the sole purpose of creating a plan to provide "direction and focus" for SUNY Fredonia, according to committee members. This plan, which is aptly named the Strategic Plan, is committed to recruiting and retaining students, faculty and staff, which is something the university sorely needs.

The Strategic Plan has five goals, which the committee hopes to accomplish through a variety of methods. As mentioned in the framework draft

document, the first of these goals is to establish, embrace and support SUNY Fredonia's distinctive identity, and to enhance SUNY Fredonia's standing as a place of destination.

The second is to create both a dynamic Academic Master Plan and a Program Health Initiative. The third is to increase financial sustainability and stewardship to have better long-term fiscal accountability. The fourth goal is to further promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging within the academic programs in the community. The final goal is to better prioritize and promote well-being in all areas within campus facilities and operations.

"Strategic Plans are pretty standard in higher education," Starrett said. "They are road maps for implementing institutional visions. [Having] a strategic plan always helps guide resource allocation."

The university cannot just magically decide to fix its budget problems. Something is needed to help guide faculty and staff, and that's exactly what this plan is.

The good news is that this plan "will be completed this year," according to Starrett. "It is a 5-year plan that should run [from] 2023 to 2028."

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Change.org petition demands FSA serves up a helping of changes

SYLVANA CUBILLOS

Special to The Leader

The frustration among Fredonia students about the food availability on campus seemed to reach a new level these past couple of weeks when flyers started appearing around campus with a QR code and the title, “Dear FSA, we have had enough.”

If you scanned the QR code, you were redirected to a change.org petition urging to “Change the SUNY Fredonia Meal Plans.”

The petition essentially has three main requests: more meal swipes, longer hours of operation for existing dining halls and more dining hall options than the ones that are currently available.

The petition was started by Isabelle Price, a freshman biochemistry major from Rochester, N.Y. After having some issues last semester with the dining options herself, Price decided to create the petition to address some of her and other students' concerns.

One central focus of the petition is the number of meals offered per week. Meal Plan #1, which is the meal plan that first semester students are required to have, costs \$3,115. The plan gives students 19 meals per week and a total of 425 points per semester.

Price shared her own experience about how having 19 meals per week is impacting her. Price is a member of Fredonia's women's swim team.

“As an athlete, I am constantly burning more calories and eating more food,” Price said. “I was finding myself running out of meals by Thursday or Wednesday every week, and I was super hungry.”

However, Darin Schulz, executive director of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), explained that the 19 meals per week was not an arbitrarily decided number.

“The number of meals was set at 19 so that a student could eat at every single meal period offered during the week at Cranston,” Schulz said.

“There are three meal periods per day [Monday through Friday] and just two Saturday and Sunday [at Cranston].”

In addition to the meals, Schulz said the “425 points that the plan offers were intended to supplement the allowance of meals that may have been used by a student at Willy C's or Starbucks along with the opportunity to use [points] in the [Convenience Store].”

In regards to the request for unlimited meals that was mentioned in the petition, Schulz said how this was not feasible since it would then “constrain [FSA's] ability to allow meal allowances in locations such as [Willy C's and Starbucks].”

The petition also requested more dining hall options as Price believes that the ones that are offered “are not meeting the dietary needs of students on campus.”

For Schulz, the biggest problem that FSA is facing is the constraint of revenue due to factors such as lower enrollment at SUNY Fredonia during the last couple of years.

“We want to do more things for the campus, but we have to live by the budget,” Schulz said. “The budget does not currently allow for opening more locations.”

The last request that Price mentioned in the petition was student concerns over dining hours. As the main dining hall on campus, Price believes that Cranston should be open until at least 8 p.m. instead of 7:30 a.m to 7:30 p.m, as it currently works on weekdays.

“They can't keep closing at 7:25 because [some] classes don't end until [late] sometimes and practices don't end until certain times and then students are left with only one option, which is Willy C's,” Price said.



“There needs to be a longer hours period.”

About the hours of operation, Schulz justified them by saying that “keeping Cranston open would bring a lot of extra costs to keep it open for more hours.”

Regarding possible next steps, Price said, “I don't know where [Schulz] will want to direct this conversation. ... As the director, he will probably want this to go a certain way, which I completely understand.”

She also expressed how she is willing to take her concerns as high as she needs to with the administration. She is interested in possibly sitting on the FSA's board of directors as a student board member in the future.

As for Schulz, in regards to the petition, he said “I think no matter [what you do] there are always going to be people that are concerned about how the service is delivered. I think no matter where you go, there's always going to be [those that] the system doesn't work perfectly for.”

Honors Lounge opens in Fenton Hall after decades of requests

DAN QUAGLIANA

Special to The Leader

Since the 1980s, the Fredonia Honors Program has been looking to get their own space where Honors students can “learn, lead and live” together. But it took until this semester for them to actually get one. The new Honors Lounge, located in Fenton Hall 2148-2151, allows for students to learn, lead and live - and more.

Students can arrange and host programs in the lounge, but “only for general use,” says Dr. Natalie Gerber, the director of the Honors Program. “The main lounge should always be available if there isn’t an Honors event going on.”

Honors students often find it difficult to interact with one another because they are a part of more than 65 different majors, many of which are associated with different schools spread throughout the university.

“There’s no way of finding other Honors students outside of Honors House [Grissom Hall] or other Honors classes,” Gerber said. “We wanted students to be able to interact in a way that was unmediated, that wasn’t constructed by faculty or staff.”

Since the Honors Lounge first opened on Jan. 25, Honors students have been enjoying the new space.

The lounge is a “really good opportunity to have an extra study space that isn’t just your dorm or a random table in the middle of an academic building,” said Makalya Mohrman, a first year Honors student.



Photo by ALYSSA BUMP | Chief Copy & Design Editor.

Mohrman specifically referenced the fact that the lounge was a great place to meet other students that you normally would not have the chance to meet.

“The amenities are always a great selling point, too,” she said.

Speaking of amenities, the lounge has plenty of them. There are puzzles, free coffee, tea, hot chocolate and snacks, including cookies and chocolate. A refrigerator and television are on loan from Kathy Forster and the Residence Life staff, and there is also a laptop bar if students are looking for a more studious atmosphere.

Gerber specified that the lounge was not going for a “library” vibe, so to speak, but rather a laid-back environment for Honors students to get work done or stop for a snack.

That being said, the lounge is definitely “cozy, but in its infancy,” said Josh Ribakove, a third year intern within the Honors Program.

As of right now, the only purchased decoration is a giant Honors Program logo printed on the wall, which was designed by Scott Brown, a graphic design student who graduated last year. Other donated furniture currently lives in the space, and Ribakove said “after it’s been developed more, it’ll be even cozier.”

Beginning with Dr. Ted Steinberg, the first Honors director in the ‘80s, every Honors director has wanted a space like the new lounge. The beginnings of this lounge date back to 2017, when David Kinkela, a professor in the history department, created a petition which eventually amassed well over 100 signatures.

The final proposal, however, was authored by Sophie Wojciechowski, a public relations and journalism double major who graduated last summer. Her proposal was sent to Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Starrett, who approved it, paving the way for the lounge to be constructed.

In order to transform a nondescript room in Fenton Hall into the face of the Honors Program, a lot of work was required, often in “the blink of an eye,” according to Gerber.

“The Honors Program is incredibly grateful to not only the administration, but facility services, custodial staff and the dozens of people who made this happen.”

In no particular order, Gerber and the rest of the Honors Program would like to thank the Campus Space Committee; Erin Mrocza and Carmen Rivera for their support; Kinkela and Steinberg for their years-long campaigning for a special Honors space; Kathy Forster, for loaning the Honors Program the television and fridge from ResLife; Kevin Cloos, Tom Deike, Mark Delcamp and Lee Szalkowski for taking down walls, installing electrical and carpeting, moving furniture and ceiling fans and generally helping transform the space from the Computer Sciences center into the Honors Lounge; and campus and community members Tricia Drake, Carolyn Grady and Jan Laurito for donations.

Fredonia's TaQo/The Big Cheeseburger relocates to The Point in Dunkirk

ALYSSA BUMP

Chief Copy & Design Editor

Even though the closest physical food court is about 50 miles northeast of Fredonia, the recent opening of The Point brings the first virtual food court to the area.

"You can order off of three menus at the same time," said Nick Keefe, a managing partner of The Point. "It is like being able to go to three different places and get it all paid for at the same time, which really sets us apart from everyone else."

The restaurant, located in the former Moose Club on 286 West Lake Shore Drive in Dunkirk, opened its doors for the first time to diners on Monday, Jan. 23. The restaurant has been open for take out and delivery since early January.

Keefe is the previous owner and operator of TaQo/The Big Cheeseburger, a popular restaurant once located on 36 Main St. in Fredonia. Its menu has become a staple for the college community, and luckily, it is still available at The Point.

"With TaQo, it's all built around the same ingredients [as before]. So you can get tacos, bowls, burritos, nachos, ... and everything's fully customizable," Keefe said. "... The Big Cheeseburger is just quality hamburgers. ... It's kind of similar to Five Guys but a little higher quality."

The restaurant's menu is known for its fresh ingredients, housemade condiments and 12-hour smoked brisket.

"We make everything from scratch — all of our pickled veggies, sauces, marinades or rubs — all of that is made in house," Keefe said. "We smoke our own brisket and our own pulled pork. ... Those [practices] have been established for a while, so we have a pretty good following of those different concepts."

Along with the previous menus, The Point offers a third, new menu: Rustico artisan pizza. The thin crust, gourmet pizza menu has been created with the help of Keefe's fellow managing partner, Ale Manino. Their third managing partner, Allan Steinberg, owns The Point's building.

Dine-in customers over the age of 21 can also enjoy a variety of spirits and drinks at the bar. Keefe and his partners have an innovative, digital tab system for the bar and dine-in area.

"We're the first locally owned restaurant in Chautauqua County to do [both] order and pay at the table," Keefe said.



The Point's storefront and bar area on the opening day of dine-in business.

Photos by ALYSSA BUMP | Chief Copy & Design Editor.

"So you can come in, you can scan a QR code and you can start a tab right there."

Quick and easy ordering is a key element to The Point's delivery system as well. Keefe said it is another area where he has invested a lot into the technology.

"We've built [the delivery system] for the last three years ... utilizing the tools that are out there," Keefe said. "... We also have a real slick curbside pickup system where you can text in which we actually did develop."

The delivery system charges a flat \$3 fee, which outcompetes prices of delivery services like DoorDash. Students can order delivery right to their dorm at SUNY Fredonia.

"We'll deliver pretty much anywhere," Keefe said. "We go down to the Brockton Prison ... then to the airport ... and then at Fredonia, we go all the way to route 60."

Safety first graphic by ALINA MARSH | Special To The Leader.

Keefe hopes to create a family-friendly environment in the dining area to cater towards millennial families and the younger demographic.

The Point's planning initiatives began last October; TaQo/The Big Cheeseburger closed right after Thanksgiving. A little more than a month later, The Point opened.

"It's been a lot. Most people don't open up something from scratch. ... This has been a monster of a project," Keefe said. "I take a lot of pride in the fact that I was able to get it up and running."

Some of Keefe's favorite menu items include the smoked brisket and the new sausage pizza. Keefe's mom, Janet Keefe, said her favorite is the quesadillas.

Keefe is a SUNY Fredonia alum, and most of his close family consists of Fredonia graduates.

"Both of Nick's parents, his brother, his sister and his wife are all Fredonia State graduates," Janet said.

Because of Keefe's close proximity to campus, he frequently works with students and hires them. One of these students is Jax Moeller, a senior sociology major, who has worked at The Point since its opening. Like Janet, Moeller's favorite item on the menu is quesadillas. He also noted the variety and quality of The Point's dining options.

"I think that the pizza is really different from any of the local Buffalo pizzas," Moeller said. "I think our pizzas are definitely the way to go."

Moving forward, Keefe has big plans for The Point's event room, which is currently being developed.

"The next step is we want to start developing this side and doing events and parties," Keefe said. "It's a place where I want to cater to the college because I know that there's not a lot of places other than on campus where you can do events ... like karaoke night and trivia night."

To keep up to date with The Point's future projects, follow @taqofredonia on Instagram and Facebook.



University Police set to host safety seminar



ALANA WINGATE
Staff Writer

Fredonia's University Police Department (UPD) is calling out to all students and faculty to give everyone on campus a crash course in campus safety. UPD will hold a safety seminar on Feb. 22 in the Kelly Auditorium of the Science Center at 2:30 p.m. The seminar is scheduled to last 90 minutes, and students and faculty will be able to ask questions regarding safety on campus.

University Police Chief Brent Isaacson will lead the seminar and go over safety measures with the help of UPD officers.

Isaacson was sworn in as chief back in 2019, when he shared that he planned to build on the police work at SUNY Fredonia by enhancing the community police program and specialized training. The police seminar will demonstrate many safety scenarios including how training and police programming is conducted.

The chief plans to go over safety procedures, such as how to prevent targeted violence in active shooting incidents, what happens on our campus if concerning behaviors are reported, how UPD are staffed and trained to operate to keep everyone on campus safe and what you can do as a student or faculty to increase campus security.

Considering the mass shooting cases that have happened on college campuses around the country, UPD is stressing the importance of safety, and how to react or conduct yourself in a safe manner on campus in more severe safety situations.

The chief has advised all students to program UPD's phone number into their phones as one of his safety tips. In the case of an emergency, contacting UPD rather than 911 will enable quicker responses to be taken. You can also download the Rave Guardian app, which is available for iPhone and Android phones. The software includes numerous features that are beneficial to students, including a police badge icon. In the event of an emergency where you need to be located but are unable to provide your exact location for any reason, pressing this badge will not only summon the police department, but it will also provide your exact location.

However, only when the student activates the app on their phone will it show the student's location.

UPD can be reached 24/7 at 716-673-3333.

Gov. Hochul visits Dunkirk to award city \$10 million

ALYSSA BUMP

Chief Copy & Design Editor

Small towns are facing big problems across the country. Population declines, budget cuts and business closures have deeply impacted communities across the Western New York region, like Dunkirk.

On Monday morning, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced Dunkirk is the awardee of a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant at the Dunkirk Clarion Hotel Conference Center on Lake Erie.

Dunkirk Mayor Willie Rosas was in attendance and accepted the award on behalf of the City of Dunkirk. SUNY Fredonia President Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr. and a small group of SUNY Fredonia students were also present for the announcement.

As a Hamburg native, Hochul spoke on the unique likability of Western New York, ranging from its historical value to its beautiful surroundings. She honored the individuals that make up these communities.

“[This] region is known for something incredible, and that is its resilience, its toughness, its ability to come back after adversity,” Hochul said. “... There is nothing better, more tougher, more resilient and more loving than the people in these communities that are going to be recognized today.”

Hochul granted two more Western New York towns, Wellsville and Lancaster, with the NY Forward Awards, each amounting in \$4.5 million. Lancaster Mayor Lynne Ruda and Wellsville Mayor Randy Shayler were also in attendance for the announcement.

Despite the challenges these areas have faced in the last five years, Hochul said she sees and feels “an extraordinary story of comeback” on the horizon.

When speaking about Dunkirk, Hochul highlighted its waterfront location and close proximity to Lake Erie. She also hopes funds are used to restore the historic downtown district.

Hochul thanked Dunkirk’s Planning and Development Committee for “putting forth a vision to create a sense of place that is genuine and authentic.”

The community leaders of Dunkirk, Lancaster and Wellsville and their passion for the prosperity of their areas were also recognized by Hochul. She made note that these communities will no longer have to fight these battles on their own.

“There are so many communities that feel like for a long time, no one paid attention to them. I know this because I am from here. That era is over,” Hochul said. “Every community,



Governor Kathy Hochul awards Dunkirk Mayor Rosas with revitalization grant. Photo by LORI DEEMER | Marketing/Communications.

regardless of size, regardless of population, matters to me. So this is deeply personal. I want you to shine.”

Since Rosas has stepped into office, he has worked to revitalize the downtown and waterfront area of Dunkirk.

“We’re ready to take that giant step to become a destination here in Western New York,” Rosas said. “We believe that this plan that we proposed will help us to bring in folks from ... the State of Pennsylvania and the State of Ohio.”

Rosas recognized the work of many partners, including Vincent DeJoy, Dunkirk’s director of Planning and Development.

Dunkirk’s submitted plan presents 10 different projects the city is looking to fund. Rosas made note of a few of these projects, which include the development of the Dunkirk Marina, a new waterpark and the Jamestown Community College in Dunkirk.

Ruda and Shayler also spoke about the different ways they plan to use their funds. Once at the podium, Ruda said she is a SUNY Fredonia alum, and she spoke directly to the SUNY Fredonia students present at the announcement.

“My advice to you is to dream big, to work hard and put your time in and great things will happen,” she said.

Ruda spoke about the impact the \$4.5 million will have on Lancaster, describing it as “an opportunity of a lifetime.”

“This funding is going to provide us with the opportunity to be a beacon for the rest of New York State to show how a community who has fallen on hard times can uplift itself,” Ruda said. “So today, we celebrate. But tomorrow, we’re ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.”

University Bookstore set to change textbook provider: How does this affect students?

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
Special to The Leader

While many students' backpacks are currently filled with textbooks, next year, students will be able to take some of the weight off of their shoulders.

Some rumors are swirling about the campus bookstore not supplying textbooks in the next academic year. However, Darin Schulz, executive director of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), is putting these rumors to rest.

In Fall 2023, Schulz said that the bookstore on campus will continue to offer textbooks, but will be changing its book provider. Instead of being a self-operated bookstore, FSA has enlisted the help of Akademos, a full-service online book provider.

Akademos is a company that provides students and colleges around the world with savings on textbooks, while leaving full control to administrators and faculty. Akademos gives administrators the ability to buy only as many textbooks as they need, preventing unpurchased books from stocking up on shelves.

Other colleges such as the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, N.Y., have switched to using Akademos after negotiations with other book providers and retailers fell through.

RIT built a \$12 million Barnes & Noble bookstore on campus, but then walked away from the deal. In response to this, they switched to Akademos. Akademos also provides books for Brooklyn Law School, Houghton College, as well as many other educational institutions.

"[Losing Barnes & Noble] made things a little harder honestly because before you could go get some of your books right at the store, but now you have to order them all online," said Abigail Starkweather, a sophomore at RIT.

Schulz expressed his opinions on the change.

"By going to a virtual bookstore, the only downside for the student is that you have to wait two days to get your books ... but the positives are better pricing and overall more options," Schulz said.

One student, who has chosen to remain anonymous, believes this change is for the better.

"I think this is a good step for Fredonia," the student said. "If it provides better pricing with only having to wait a few days, that is fine with me."

Schulz said that physical textbooks will still be available through Fredonia's online bookstore portal, just not in store. Using your e-services ID, you will be able to buy books for a low price. There are many options to choose from such as buy new, buy used, rent new, rent used and buy e-textbooks. FredFunds will still be an option for paying for your textbooks, as well as financial aid, credit cards and book scholarships.

However, Textbook Pre-Packs, where students could buy their textbooks and pick them up at the bookstore, will be going away in the fall. Schulz said that Textbook Pre-Pack numbers have decreased over the past few years because not enough physical books are being sold, which is why SUNY Fredonia is switching to Akademos.

"The bookstore itself will still be the same, except there won't be books on the shelves, unless they are locally sourced books,"

Schulz said.

The bookstore will continue to provide school supplies such as pens, pencils, art supplies as well as music supplies. The store will also still carry Fredonia merchandise.

"We have been talking about doing this for five years now. Now, the time is right," Schulz said. "... The bookstore market has declined, especially on college campuses. Many are switching to online bookstores, which are more efficient. We think it is going to be better overall, so we are excited."



University Bookstore's current book selection.
WILL KARR | Editor in Chief.

Defrosting SUNY Fredonia's icy navigation issues

MAISIE STRADER

Special to The Leader

During the winter season, Fredonia students have had slippery accidents on walkways, and the ice has even prevented the ability for some students to safely navigate campus at all. What action is being taken to prevent these problems?

The assistant director of facility services along with a first-year music student have a few things to say.

“I think they need to take better care and upkeep of the stairs,” said Julia Klement, a first year music student. “I fell the other day leaving Fenton. I think that the students just need to be careful.”

On the popular anonymous social media app Yik Yak, many students said that they are having the same issue as Klement.

“To the person who fell down Thompson I hope you're doing okay,” said one anonymous user on Yik Yak.

When asked about the instances or problems in the past year, Mark Delcamp, assistant director of facility services at Fredonia said “Everything is managed in time. We utilize our employees to the best of our abilities with our equipment. We are in the process of budgeting for some new equipment which will help us to provide consistent and more thorough services to the campus.”

Both the University Police and the Marketing/Communication Department both help spread safety information to the campus community on a regular basis.

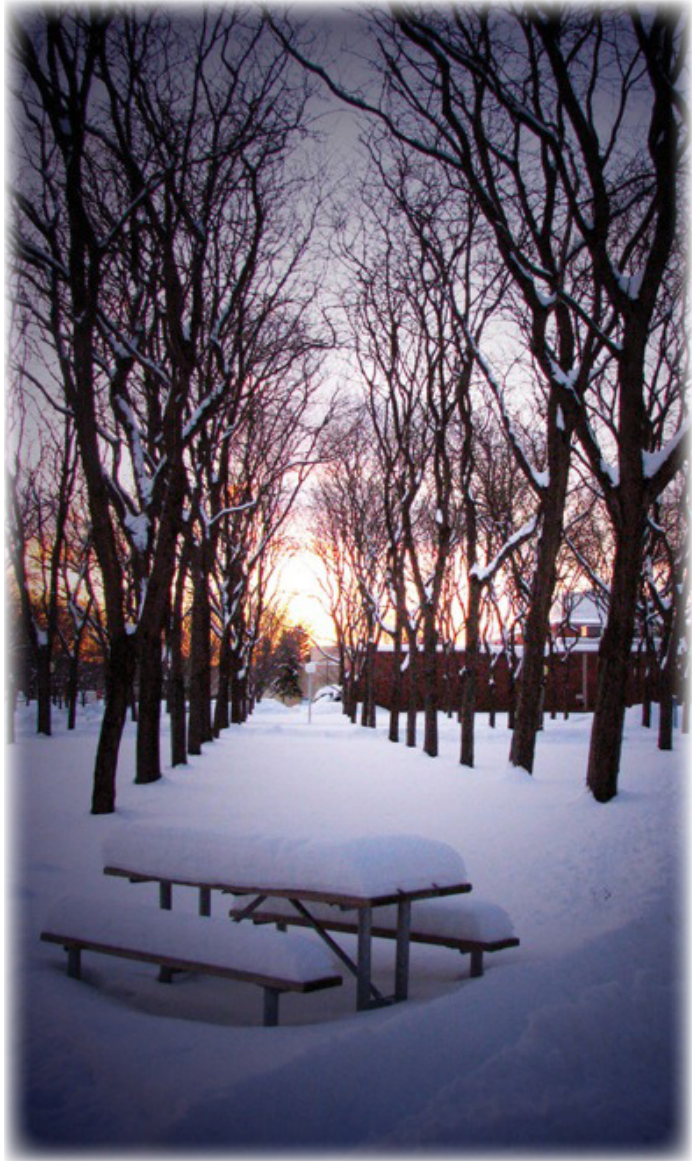
“We always want everyone to be aware of the danger that comes along with the winter storms ... especially when you are arriving on campus and driving home,” Delcamp said.

UPD and Marketing/Communication often spend the most time ensuring the safety of campus roads.

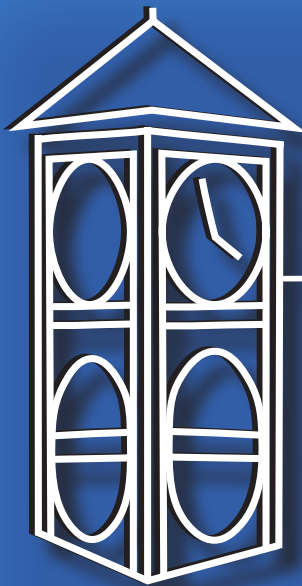
“Priority number one is roadways,” Delcamp said. “We need to ensure that the many users of our campus can come and go as needed, especially emergency vehicles. At the same time, we are clearing roadways and parking lots and staff working on adjacent sidewalks. We prioritize sidewalks based on the needs of students with accessibility issues. We work with Jennifer Ruhland, Coordinator of Disability Support Services, to coordinate the clearing of travel paths for those respective students so they can easily navigate and get to their classes safely.”

Delcamp expresses that all storms are going to be “unique,” which also means that each storm will come with a different plan.

As Delcamp prepares for another winter storm, remember that everyone is doing their best, either trying not to slip or trying to prevent the falls.



Snowy campus. THE LEADER | Archive.



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Life & Arts

Activities Night back in action



Prospective student club members view Noteworthy's table at Activities Night.
ALEXANDRA GILES | Special To The Leader.

Highlighting the old and new

EJ JACOBS
Staff Writer

There is no other feeling like that experienced when one finally discovers a place to nurture and enjoy their hobbies. Activities Night has always been a great way to find people that share your interests.

Activities Night has also given students the opportunity to discover new interests they never thought they would have. Over 100 clubs come together once a semester to teach people about why they should join their club and help them possibly discover a new interest they never thought they would have. This semester's Activities Night was held on Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Steele Hall Fieldhouse.

There are constantly new clubs being created on the Fredonia campus, and this semester is no different. This semester, Activities Night showcased seven new clubs for students to discover and possibly join.

The new clubs to join were: The Michael Johnathon Fan Club, Kazoo Choir, Fredonia Skateboard Club, Knitting/Crochet Club, Pool/Billiards Club, Fashion Club and Cooking Club.

The addition of these clubs all bring something fresh to the campus community for those with various unique interests.

For Sebastian Spisak, the inclusion of a Skateboard Club was more than exciting.

"Fredonia Skateboarding Club gives an entertaining, pleasant and athletic environment to people with an interest in skateboarding and longboarding at SUNY Fredonia," Spisak said. "We don't take ourselves too seriously; we just want to shine a light on skaters at Fredonia and have people to skate with."

The Skateboard Club will start to hold events as it gets warmer this semester. However, if your interests do not include skateboarding, you might want to try your hands in the kitchen, as Fredonia will soon be adding a Cooking Club.

"Adulting is hard, especially when you don't know how to cook," said Makenzie Rosario, the club's president. "As a vegetarian, I don't get the best healthy options, and I want to teach people that there are healthier and easier options that they can make in their dorm kitchens. It won't be all plant-based, but I do want to rotate non-plant based and plant-based."

Joining a cooking club could expand your food palette. But if you cannot see yourself in the kitchen, there is the new Knitting/Crochet Club.

Considering the stresses we all have faced in recent years, students have found themselves staying in more and doing

crafts. If you want to learn new skills or just want to have something to do with your hands while watching television, you should try knitting or crocheting.

President of the Knitting/Crochet Club, Olivia Sylvester said, "Besides its self-descriptive title, Knitting/Crochet Club will consist of weekly meetings where members can get together, knit/crochet, and relax, along with some occasional workshops where we will feature a project that everyone can learn to make."

During Activities Night, the Knitting/Crochet Club made great strides in its new life, getting 85 sign ups.

Many of us have that one celebrity that we follow religiously, and for Kelly Ibach, that celebrity is Michael Johnathon. Ibach loves the artist so much that she designed a club dedicated to him.

"The Michael Johnathon Fan Club (MJFC) was made to celebrate the Country Bluegrass artist Michael Johnathon's accomplishments and what he stands for," Ibach said. "We are a club that was made to celebrate music and advocate for others to appreciate music in whatever way they please."

Aside from the new clubs that were displayed at Activities Night, there were also the clubs that have been a staple on campus. Fredonia upperclassmen have seen a handful of different Activities Nights throughout the years.

Junior, Music Therapy major, Megan Kidby describes Activities Night as "a way to get everybody in one place and ... to see things that maybe you didn't know existed on campus like the Geology Club or Kazoo Choir. ... It's really nice to see everybody and get to experience what this school has to offer."

As the semester is coming to a start, it is a great time to keep in touch with your hobby while balancing a busy semester.

To receive updates from Fredonia's newest clubs on campus, follow @fredcooking, @michaeljohnathonfanclub, @kazoos_of_fred and @fred_yarn_club on Instagram.

What to expect at FRS' Rock 'n' Skate

ISABELLA INZINNA

Special to The Leader

If you're struggling to find fun things to do in the thick of winter, consider attending Rock 'n' Skate in Steele Hall on Sunday Feb. 19 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is \$5 and skate rentals at the ice rink will be \$4.

At its core, Rock 'n' Skate is an ice skating event that helps SUNY Fredonia's student-run radio station, Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS), earn money to fund future events.

Rock 'n' Skate happens annually, but this year, things will be a bit different. According to one of the coordinators and the club's production director, Hunter Halterman, this year's Rock 'n' Skate will have a Valentine's Day theme.

Halterman said, "It should be a fun time to bring your significant other or best friend."

There will be heart-shaped cookies, cotton candy and other sweets available at the rink. There will also be a raffle for different FRS merchandise.

Steele Hall will even be decorated in all of the classic Valentine's Day colors.

But aside from the sweets, the event is equipped with music and students hosting.

Who better to DJ and keep you entertained while you skate than the "Overcall" crew. Overcall is a late-night, anonymous love and relationship show that airs weekly on Thursdays at 10 p.m. on WDWL 89.5.

They'll be playing some old classics and some of the music from their show.

Joshua Ribakove is FRS' staff representative and a student who has attended Rock 'n' Skate in past years.

Ribakove said he was excited to attend this year's event, and added that last year's Rock 'n' Skate was a fun time. Ribakove is also excited to see how they'll interpret the Valentine's Day theme.

Overall, this year's Rock 'n' Skate is a way to celebrate Valentine's Day and spend a night with a partner, friend or to treat yourself.

Remember to bring some cash and to just have fun!

No matter your ice skating skill level, all attendees are welcome. Whether you're an ice skating pro, or just a beginner, FRS hopes to see you on the ice.

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Overcall

Fredonia alumni band is on the horizon

THE WEATHER MIGHT SAY OTHERWISE

"Something of Substance" album cover.



JORDAN BUDD
Special to The Leader

A small number of Fredonia-born bands last through college. Even fewer live beyond their usual four years. Only one bold collective can do it with such an oddly long name.

The debut EP from The Weather Might Say Otherwise, titled "Something of Substance," was released on Jan. 28, 2023. The EP is a converging timeline of the band's Fredonia experiences.

The three-piece, composed of Damian Brown on lead vocals and guitar, Tanor Morrison on bass and Zach Richardson on drums, made a lasting impression on SUNY Fredonia's music scene.

The band, TWMSO for short, were the final residents of The North Pole Strip Club, a now retired DIY hotspot, often considered the "most legendary house venue in Western New York."

After the group submitted to a competition with the WNY Music Industry Alliance, the main booking agent at Mohawk Place, Marty Boratin, caught wind of the group. Boratin had big compliments, believing they were "the best new band [he] heard by far."

Ash Deharder, a senior who is well-versed in the Fredonia scene, compliments their "kind and goofy energy," and says the punk troupe "led by example" on "how to make music and bring people together."

The lead single for this EP, "Statue of Frogs," is playfully named after mishearing the legal term, Statute of Frauds. The tune's waggish title and recent music video might be the best example of their jocular strain of sincerity.

They strike an important balance, aiming for hilariously genuine content while writing what they consider to be "very serious music."

"Something of Substance" marks TWMSO's first big musical endeavor together, a messy three-year long learning process that they hold close to their hearts.

Their recordings started on campus, but they found it was a lot of pressure on themselves, and had more success with Trevor Balbierz at Skyway Studios.

"Something of Substance" links their initial demo release, "Youthful Belligerence," and popular single, "I'll Drink To That," to whatever comes next.

When asked about how it feels listening back to it now, Richardson responded simply "Sad, honestly," reminding him of all the little things the guys had done together in Fredonia.

This project is "not a happy album by any means," as the group tackles hard-to-think-about topics like mental health issues and substance abuse.

Richardson mentions the initial idea: Brown would write a song for each drug he has done, taking a deep dive into how these substances make him feel, while assessing the greater effect they have had on his life, and the world at large.

This thought-provoking concept developed within the EP's lengthy incubation period. "Something of Substance" leaves things open-ended, as it does not always refer to "a physical substance." The group confronts the enemy within, as "substance" also refers to their significance as people. When it comes down to it, TWMSO realizes their work dissects the things that tear us apart, whether it is related to drugs or not.

The group's past manager and remaining best bud, Dan Doyle, currently works with Rochester band Carpool and concert promotion company After Dark. He praises Brown's work:

"Damian's lyric game is something I've seldom seen bands be able to match. He writes with his full heart and mind, and puts every ounce of thought into what he wants to say in a song. Oftentimes his lyrics have very complex meanings so if people can understand his message, it's quite beautiful and sentimental."

The collective's friendship with Doyle is genuine. Morrison jokingly blurts out, "He was our fourth Beatle!"

Despite the gaggle's silly authenticity, there is a legitimate sense of drama baked into this EP.

The group pulls cinematic audio clips from a stockpile of film favorites as diverse as "The Godfather," "Euphoria" and "Naruto."

These narrations bring it all together, while transitioning between scuzzy DIY pop-punk, gloomy emo-folk, and throat-shredding post-hardcore.

One highlight from the record, “Virtual Blood Pact (Pretty Drinks),” is cold-as-hell skramz hostility inspired by Brown’s love for heavy music.

The singer gushes about evil chord progressions and crazy screams, even announcing that he wishes he was in a band focused on playing music like this.

Every so often the other two latch on to this passion.

Legend has it, when Brown played the VBP verse riff for Morrison, the bass player couldn’t help but shed a tear.

A song-opening scream busts the door open for TWMSO’s antagonizing heavy rock sound, one they’ll continue to pursue as they’ve received good feedback on the track.

Brown mentions how each song discusses a phase within the five stages of grief. Although they aren’t always in the right order, the closing track, “Krimens,” is acceptance, displaying an honest step forward while tolerating emotion.

Doyle connects with “Krimens” more than any other track from the EP, mentioning how he is proud of the band “for creating such a fun/emotional song.”

He lays some claim on the title, explaining how he used the phrase a lot in [his] early college years in place of something like ‘damn.’”

As the album closes and subsequently returns to its intro track, the band connects with a piece of advice from “Euphoria’s” Ali, a drug sponsor for the main character, Rue: “She’s got a long way to go, but so did I, her age,” a moment that sums up the release more than any other.

The group has come far, finally able to celebrate a mastered release they are proud of.

That said, Brown leads the charge, making it clear that “this is nowhere near the end of our road or the best that we’re gonna do.”

Since the project’s genesis, TWMSO has grown immensely, leading the group to think they have a better game plan for the next time.

Nevertheless, Brown keeps it simple, “We’ll always be sad teenage boys playing heavy music.”

Thankfully, that’s one thing The Weather Might Say Otherwise may never grow out of. Listen to “Something of Substance” on Apple Music and Spotify.

Fun at Foxhead: Live show review

CHLOE KOWALYK

Managing Editor

Main Street Studios, a rentable entertainment space in downtown Fredonia, was alive once again with lights, music and students looking for a fun night.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, Foxhead Record Co. put on their first show of the semester at Main Street Studios. Foxhead is run by two SUNY Fredonia students: Jacob King and Liam Powers.

Three different artists took the stage that night: Boy Jr., Hundred Plus Club and Asteroid Day.

The night started off with Asteroid Day, who had formed last semester and performed at Battle of the New Bands. Asteroid Day drew a large crowd, playing electric hits and giving the crowd a great beat to dance to.

With them, the band displayed a mannequin wearing a helmet and a broken television. The group was so enthusiastic about playing, that the band’s drummer punched the broken television and injured his hand.

After a quick bandaging job, the band was back in action. The audience loved Asteroid Day, and they

featured a unique blend of original songs, and performed a cover of “I Am the Walrus” by The Beatles.

Watching Asteroid Day perform was exciting and fun, as they kept everyone engaged throughout their entire set.

Up next was Hundred Plus Club, a band from Buffalo, N.Y.

Having never heard their sound prior to the show, I was curious as to how they would sound, and how they would follow up Asteroid Day’s crazy performance. But, the band knew just how to get the audience to vibe with and rock to their songs.

In fact, Hundred Plus Club’s Spotify biography describes them as having “fluttery/plucky guitars, driving basslines, systematic drumming and moody/dark vocals coalesce into melodic indie rock with a touch of ruggedness that calls back to early 2000s NYC.”

Hundred Plus Club displayed this unique sound with a cover of “Kids” by MGMT, which led the audience to break out into jumping, dancing and singing. The crowd truly seemed to come together once they heard the familiar tune.

After a set that seemed to have gone by too quickly, Boy Jr. took the stage.

Boy Jr. is from Rochester, N.Y., and is a hyperpop artist. She performed some of her biggest hits such as “Are They Actually Attractive” and “Narcissist, Baby.” She creates all of the tracks herself, plays guitar and sings. During the Foxhead show, Boy Jr. also had a drummer with her.

Boy Jr.’s greatest strength was her ability to perform. She moved around the stage and often used her arms to show her emotion while performing.

The best part of Boy Jr.’s set is when she did a hyperpop cover of “Mr. Brightside” by The Killers. During the cover, she pointed the microphone toward the crowd, who sang the lyrics with her.

Everyone was dancing and moving to the beat as Boy Jr. strutted across the stage. Overall, the first show of the semester was a lot of fun, and all three bands were incredible.



Artist Boy Jr. struts the stage. Photo by CHLOE KOWALYK | Managing Editor.

SPORTS



Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Special To The Leader.

'PINK THE RINK' returns to Steele Hall Ice Arena

The Blue Devil's men's ice hockey team suited up in pink on Saturday, Feb. 4, to honor National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month.

Since 2008, the donations from the event have raised over \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society.

WILL KARR

Editor in Chief

At this past Saturday's game, Fredonia's men's hockey players jerseys looked a little different on the ice. The game wasn't just any ordinary or average game. Rather, it was 'Pink the Rink.' Audience members and players came to the rink donning pink as the team faced off against Potsdam.

Pink the Rink first started at SUNY Fredonia in 2008. Greg Hoffman, who was an assistant coach at the time, came up with the idea for the event to honor his mother who had breast cancer.

In addition to being an assistant coach, Hoffman was a sports management professor. His students rallied behind him and the event.

The first time the event was hosted, event goers wore pink and offered donations. However, as the event approached its second year, players began wearing pink jerseys and knee socks to show support for the cause themselves. The event is held each year in February during National Cancer Prevention Awareness Month and all proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

During its beginning years, the event was featured on ESPN. The team has been hosting the event for nearly 15 years and this will be the first time it has taken place again since the pandemic in 2020-21.

Jeff Meredith, Fredonia Men's Ice Hockey head coach, said that with the donations from this year's event, Pink the Rink has raised over \$100,000 dollars for the American Cancer Society since its onset. In 2014, Meredith was recognized by the American Cancer Society with the 2013 Coach of the Year Award for making a difference in fighting against cancer in the Eastern Division. This year marks Meredith's 35th season serving as coach of the team.

"The jerseys for the event cost \$250 dollars each. When someone buys a jersey, they get to tell me the name that they want on the back of the jersey," Meredith said. "The name on the jersey is a tribute to a person battling cancer or who has [passed away] due to cancer."

Donors each receive the jersey from the players following the game in an on the ice ceremony.

Players are wearing more than just simply a name on the rink. Rather, they are representing the stories and faces of those who have experienced cancer. Players have the option to wear the name of their own loved one.

The program for the event contains biographies detailing each individual's unique experience, which adds what Meredith describes as a more "personal touch."

"There is a lot of emotion in somebody writing a biography about someone that they may love who is no longer here anymore," Meredith said.

Meredith explained the overall importance of athletic teams finding ways to give back to communities.

"[Pink the Rink] is a big part of our team and program. The campus and community really rallies around it. You have close to 1,000 people waiting in the lobby each year on a Saturday night. ... It all really brings a lot of energy, and it's an emotional game. Players are playing for somebody else, so there is a little bit more of a responsibility."
- Coach Jeff Meredith

Logan Dyck, player #31 and a junior criminal justice major, wore a jersey to honor his grandfather Allan's battle with cancer. This year's event marked Dyck's first Pink the Rink because the event didn't take place during his first two years at Fredonia due to COVID.

"Pink the Rink means a lot to me. I've known a number of people affected by cancer — both family and friends," Dyck said. "My jersey is for my grandpa who has cancer. Pink the Rink is a great tradition and ... I am excited to be a part of giving back."

Cam Birkeland, player #5 on the team and a junior computer science major, expressed his overall thoughts about the event. This year's event was Birkeland's first Pink the Rink as well.

"For me, I think it's a great way to shed light on people who have either gone through cancer or are going through it right now to just give them the recognition they deserve for fighting it," Birkeland said. "I think it's really cool to put a spotlight on it and remember people and their fight."

Unlike Birkeland and Dyck, this year's event is #4 Craig McCabe's second Pink the Rink. His first Pink the Rink was in February of 2020, a month before the COVID shutdown.

"It's definitely cool to wear different jerseys and to be in the atmosphere of everyone supporting each other," McCabe said. "Everyone there has a big smile on their face. It's definitely a good time, and I think everyone enjoys it."

Meredith explained how this year's event is overall different from previous years.

"This year, the front and back sleeves of each of the players' jerseys contain every name that has ever appeared on the back of the jersey throughout the history of the event," Meredith said. "This year, we are not only honoring just one year of jersey recipients, but the whole duration of the program in honor of going over \$100,000 dollars."

Meredith said that he always looks forward to hosting the event every year.

"I think a lot of people may do Pink the Rink, but I don't think anyone does it like we do it with the personal touch of the names on the jersey," Meredith said.

THINK PINK ON THE RINK

Photo gallery
by Kayla Welsh



#10 Ryan Bailey wore a jersey to honor Jessica Webber. Webber was diagnosed with cancer during her high school years. In Fall 2007, Webber became a student at Fredonia. During her time, she was a member of Sigma Kappa.

Webber passed away in 2010, but her legacy continues to live on through Jessa's Quest Inc., a non-profit launched by friends and family to raise money to care for children with cancer.



#6 Adam Hawkin honored his late grandfather Harry Ragsdale on the back of his jersey. Ragsdale was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer with a less than 5% survival rate, but he did not let his diagnosis define him. Ragsdale was known as “the life of the party” and as someone who would “give you the shirt off his back.” He never missed one of his grandkids’ games.

Ragsdale lived life with a motto: “Wake up every day and do your best, take responsibility (for the good and the bad), work hard, be honest, treat people well and love your family.”



Dedicated biographies of honored tributes and loved ones are sourced from the 2023 Pink the Rink informational program.



#21 Nick Newman wore a jersey to honor team captain Craig McCabe’s grandfather Frederick Mertz. Mertz passed away of pancreatic cancer in 1995.

McCabe, #4 on the ice, grew up in a hockey family and his grandfather loved the sport of hockey.

#29 Joe Sontoro wore a jersey to honor Val Jerzak. Jerzak was a WWII veteran who took pride in his family and job. Jerzak passed away in 1994, just six days after being diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma.

Jerzak’s legacy continues to be carried on today in spirit: “Always remember to take pride in everything you do and remember the importance of family ... always.”



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Goalie #31 Logan Dyck wore a jersey to honor his 82-year-old grandfather Al Kostyniuk, who is battling cancer.

Kostyniuk loves “cheering on any team that Logan plays for.”

#4 Craig McCabe wore a jersey to honor Maureen Blackburn, who was diagnosed with breast cancer back in 2011. Blackburn participated in Pink the Rink in February of 2020, before the pandemic.

Blackburn is inspired by the resiliency of student athletes like McCabe “who worked so hard ... while there were so many restrictions during COVID, as she personally fought through health issues as a young adult.” Blackburn is now cancer free and views “everyday [as] a gift.”



#12 Ethan Pitzman wore a jersey to honor Peggy Dye, a 12-year breast cancer survivor from 2015.



Dedicated biographies of honored tributes and loved ones are sourced from the 2023 Pink the Rink informational program.

On and off the ice:

Craig McCabe skates towards the future

WILL KARR
Editor in Chief

Ever since he could stand up on his own, Fredonia men's ice hockey player Craig McCabe has had skates on his feet. Growing up, his parents built him and his siblings an outdoor rink in their backyard.

"Ever since I was two until I came here, skating has been a way for me to get away from reality," McCabe said.

McCabe is a team captain and a senior business marketing major from Rochester, N.Y. As a child, McCabe first started skating at a local rink in his town, where he learned to play hockey from Fredonia alumni Dave and Tony Maksymiu. He grew up in a "hockey family."

Since his youth, he has played for Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, New Jersey and Canadian teams. McCabe played in the NAHL, one of the highest rated junior leagues. McCabe's older brother, Teddy, played hockey at SUNY Geneseo and his sister Molly plays hockey at SUNY Cortland.

McCabe graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School in 2016. After graduating from high school, instead of heading straight off to college, McCabe took a few years off to play junior league hockey, following in his older brother's footsteps. His older brother also played junior hockey.

"When everyone was sending off their college applications, I was pretty set on going to play juniors," McCabe said. "... I feel like there is this pressure to go to college right after high school. But, I think that taking some time off can be beneficial because you can get some life experience and kind of see what you want to do with the rest of your life."

McCabe said that his teachers didn't understand his decision at the time, but he had the support of his parents and

family. In order to get on a college hockey team, many players have to first go through the junior leagues to do so.

"After you graduate high school and you want to follow your dream of playing collegiate hockey, the road is different," McCabe said. "... You can either go to prep school or try to play in a junior league. I played two years in Ottawa and lived with a billet family."

McCabe came to Fredonia in Fall 2019, a semester before COVID-19 shut down SUNY campuses.

"COVID hitting was a tough situation because I was living off campus, and I didn't know whether to stay in Fredonia," McCabe said. "... The following year, I came here in hopes that I would play again. But COVID shut the [2020-2021] season down."

After the pandemic halted the season and finding out he was ahead on credits, in spring of 2023, McCabe decided to take a semester off to become a ski instructor in Lake Tahoe.

"Skiing is kind of second nature to me, and I like being outside in the mountains," McCabe said. "I saw that time as an opportunity to do something that I had always wanted to do."

Growing up, McCabe spent a lot of time in the mountains during holidays and getaways at his family's cottage in the Adirondacks. After returning back to Fredonia in Fall 2021, McCabe said that things finally started to feel normal again. With graduation months away and turning 25 in a month, McCabe is skating into his future.

"My goal would be to have a remote job where I can go skiing or go to the beach in my free time, or do what I want when I am not working," McCabe said. "... Right after college, you are supposed to get a job. But, I am young, and I want to kind of enjoy my life while I can. I like to think that I took advantage of living my life when I was young."



Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Special To The Leader. Courtesy of SIO.

Eagles helmet graphic by JESSE ANNA | Leader Archive.

In his everyday life, McCabe describes himself as reserved. However, once he gets on the ice, his personality changes.

“Off the ice, I’m definitely calm. I go with the flow, but I do like to get my adrenaline going,” McCabe said. “On the ice, I am feisty. I like to play very hard and aggressive. ... I definitely play with an edge.”

Out of all the players on the team, McCabe has one of the highest Penalty in Minute (PIM) scores on a team with a total of 125 minutes.

“Hockey is a sport where you can fight someone, sit in the penalty box and then you are fine,” McCabe said. “You can’t do that on the street or else you would get arrested.”

McCabe said that the team only needs to win a couple more games to make it to the playoffs. With the team’s 2-4 win Saturday night against SUNY Potsdam, the team only needs to win two more games to make it to the playoffs, which start on Feb. 22.

“I think we can definitely make it to the playoffs this year,” McCabe said.



From Jamestown to juggernaut: Coach Sirianni’s journey to the Super Bowl

MATT VOLZ

Asst. Sports Editor

Western New York is headed to the Super Bowl. But not in the way we might have predicted four months ago.

On Sunday, the Philadelphia Eagles will play for the Lombardi Trophy, with Jamestown native Nick Sirianni at the helm. Sirianni, a 1999 graduate of Southwestern Central, was hired to lead the Eagles in 2021 despite having no previous experience as a head coach at any level.

But some always knew he had a quality of leadership, especially the man who recruited him from high school years ago.

“He was a real leader on the team... an emotional, exciting player,” said Larry Kehres, Sirianni’s coach at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio.

As the third Sirianni brother to come up through the school, Kehres talked about how the recruiting process for a young Nick was a much lesser task than most.

“Mike and Jay were first ... we got to know him as the little brother at all the football games, so it made recruiting [him] a lot easier,” Kehres said.

Kehres also noted how Sirianni’s upbringing molded him into the person he is today.

“Successful people are products of their parents, and it’s true with those three men,” Kehres said about Sirianni and his brothers.

Jay Sirianni, Nick’s brother, still coaches and teaches at Southwestern. He also attributed the Eagles coach’s successes to their upbringing in Chautauqua County.

“People remember Nick as a kid who came out of Southwestern, and he remembers where he’s from,” Jay Sirianni said. “He’s genuine.”

He also noted how his brother still carries a significant amount of connection to his old high school and community.

“If you watch some of his press conferences, he’ll be up there wearing Southwestern stuff.”

As part of that local connection, too, Sirianni said he still talks to his brother about local Section VI sports, especially basketball. After Southwestern’s boys basketball team swept their season series against Olean two weeks ago, Jay Sirianni said his brother texted him excitedly, saying, “We just swept

Olean in boys basketball for the first time since ‘98!”

Of course, the last name of Sirianni carries quite a lot of weight at Southwestern Central School District. Fran and Amy Sirianni, the parents of the three men, have been affiliated with the school for several years.

“Nick’s dad was his football coach in high school. ... He had a role model coach. His mom was a teacher, so he majored in education with plans of teaching and coaching,” Kehres said.

Mention the name Fran Sirianni to anyone affiliated with the school, and you’re almost sure to hear something positive about him.

“Our athletic complex is named after Fran. ... He and his family have done so much for the high school,” said Jake Burkholder, the current head coach of Southwestern’s football team.

Burkholder knows Sirianni personally, having interned with the coach in the summer of 2021 while he was in his first year with the Eagles.

“Interning was awesome,” Burkholder said. “It was cool to see his virtues and how he runs things... he’s successful and dedicated to his craft.”

Having an alum coaching in the Super Bowl is well known at Southwestern, according to Burkholder. On Wednesday, Feb. 8, the school is planning to have a “Wear Green” day in support of Sirianni and his Eagles. Hopefully, there’s no Chiefs fans at Southwestern. Burkholder also believes that Sirianni’s journey can inspire kids to go for their dreams.

“I think it shows a lot to both kids and adults that if there’s something you want to do, you can do it if you put in the work,” Burkholder said.

He also noted how special it is to have a local connection to the Super Bowl.

“There’s not a lot of people in general that are part of the Super Bowl, so having alumni in the Super Bowl is awesome,” Burkholder said. “It’s cool to see that connection.”

As for Super Bowl predictions, all three are looking forward to the matchup.

“It’s a great opportunity to learn by watching these two coaching staffs and their approaches to the game,” said Kehres.

So on Sunday, Kehres, Burkholder, Jay Sirianni and all of WNY will be watching as Nick Sirianni coaches in arguably the biggest football game of the year.

Not bad for a Chautauqua County kid.

Blue Devils Sports Roundup

MATT VOLZ

Asst. Sports Editor

HOCKEY

Fredonia State's hockey team had a doubleheader weekend, with home games this past Friday and Saturday night.

On Friday, Feb. 3, the Blue Devils fell to the Plattsburgh State Cardinals by a final score of 10-3. The Cardinals led 6-0 at the end of the first period, with two shorthanded goals and two more on the man advantage.

Bryce Witman led the way in scoring for the Blue Devils with one goal and one assist, while Antonio Demacopoulos and Jake Blackwell also found the back of the net.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Blue Devils hosted the Bears of SUNY Potsdam on "Pink the Rink" night. Fredonia State rallied from an early 2-0 deficit to defeat the Bears 4-2.

Craig McCabe, Ryan Bailey, Kurri Woodford and Bryce Witman scored for the Blue Devils, with Woodford's and Witman's goals coming on the power play. Junior goaltender Logan Dyck made 36 saves in the win.

Following the game, the team presented their pink jerseys to the families and friends of those who they represented on the ice. The win improved Fredonia State to 6-14 on the season, with four regular season games remaining before the SUNYAC playoffs begin.

The next and final home game for the Blue Devils will take place on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. against SUNY Geneseo.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Blue Devils' women's swimming and diving team hosted its final meet of the season as they took on SUNY Cortland. The meet also served as Senior Night, as the Blue Devils honored their two seniors, Rachael Mayou and Libby Bray.

Mayou finished first in two events, the 1000 yard freestyle and 200 yard freestyle with times of 11:38.53 and 2:04.30, respectively. She also finished second in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:37.

Junior Kayla Hagen also won two events, finishing first in both the 100 yard backstroke and 100 yard freestyle with times of 1:01.66 and 56.14, respectively. Junior Mindy Doktor also took first in an event, winning the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:02.22 and finishing second in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 26.02, where she was just 0.02 seconds behind the winner.

Two Fredonia State relay teams also claimed first in their events: The 400 yard freestyle relay team of Kaylee Constantino, Doktor, Mayou and Hagen won with a time of 3:50.98, while the 200 yard medley relay team of Hagen, Constantino, Doktor and Megan Orrange won with a time of 1:56.01.

The Blue Devils will compete in the SUNYAC Championships from Wednesday, Feb. 15 to Saturday, Feb. 18 at Erie Community College in Buffalo.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Like the women's team, Fredonia State's men's swimming and diving team hosted SUNY Cortland on Saturday, Feb. 4 in its final meet of the season.

Sophomore Patrick McCrone took home first in three separate events, capping off a regular season in which he claimed first in many events. McCrone won the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 53.63, while also taking first in the 200 yard backstroke and 200 yard IM (individual medley) with times of 1:57.82 and 2:01.43, respectively.

Sophomore Tyler Conti also claimed first in an event, winning the 200 yard butterfly with a final time of 2:03.45. Freshman Aaron Burkett also competed in the 100 yard freestyle event, finishing second with a time of 11:59.49. Fredonia State's 200 yard medley relay team of McCrone, Noah Wisniewski, Conti and Burkett finished second with a total time of 1:44.52, while Wisniewski took third in the 200 yard breaststroke with a time of 2:29.41.

The Blue Devils will now look ahead to competing at the SUNYAC Championships from Wednesday, Feb. 15 to Saturday, Feb. 18 at Erie Community College in Buffalo.



#14 AJ Knight aims for a jump shot during Feb. 4 game against Buffalo State.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Blue Devils' women's basketball team hosted the Buffalo State Bengals and came away with a 55-38 win. The Blue Devils shot a very respectable 37.3% from the field while also not allowing a single point in the entire second quarter en route to the victory.

Freshman Laurell Brown led the way in scoring with 10 points, while sophomore Allie Wandell added nine. Freshman guard Sarah Seaman connected on two three-pointers, while Wandell and sophomore Mary Culeton each hit a shot from

behind the arc. Culeton led the way in rebounds with seven, two offensive and five defensive, while also tallying a team high four assists. Wandell, Caitlin Snyder and Alena Wright each blocked a shot for the Blue Devils, as Snyder also came away with two steals and several others came away with a steal as well.

The win snapped a three-game losing streak and brought the team's overall record to 5-14. While the Blue Devils will be on the road for games against SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY Potsdam next weekend, their final two regular season games will take place at home, as the team will host SUNY Geneseo at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 and SUNY Oswego in the regular season finale at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Blue Devils' men's basketball team hosted the Buffalo State Bengals in a continuation of the "Battle by the Lake" series. In a rematch of their first contest on Jan. 20, a game that saw Fredonia State pick up its first win of the season, the Blue Devils completed the sweep of the Bengals with a 93-82 win. The Blue Devils shot a very impressive 55.7% from the field, as well as hitting 11 of 19 from three-point range.

Sophomore guard Aaron Collins led the way in scoring with 21 points, while freshman AJ Knight added 17 of his own. Senior Jacob Hougan led the team with nine rebounds, and sophomore Malik Jemison led the Blue Devils in assists with seven. DeAndre Hayes, My'Kell Kaigler and Elian Dominguez each blocked a shot for Fredonia State, while Jemison came away with two steals and several others recorded one as well.

The win brought the Blue Devils' season record to 2-19 with four games to play in the regular season. Like the women's team, the Blue Devils will be on the road against SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY Potsdam next weekend, but will return home the following weekend for their final two regular season games. Fredonia State will host SUNY Geneseo on Friday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and SUNY Oswego in the regular season finale on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.



#4 My'Kell Kaigler gears up to shoot a basket during the first period of the Saturday, Feb. 4 game against Buffalo State in Dods Hall.



#13 Jacob Hougan and #2 DeAndre Hayes in position during Feb. 4 men's and women's doubleheader game. All photos by JUSTIN CARRINGTON | Special To The Leader.

Blue Devils tie at Battle By The Lake

DOMINICK CORSI

Special to The Leader

Since 2014, the Fredonia State Blue Devils and Buffalo State Bengals have competed in an annual, all-sports tournament named the Battle By The Lake. The Blue Devils' men's and women's basketball teams were able to contribute to this year's Battle By The Lake with their respective victories on Saturday, Feb. 4.

For The Battle By The Lake, each sport that the two teams compete in is worth two points annually. If the teams meet once in a respective season, the game would be worth two points, and if the teams face each other twice in a season, each game is worth one point.

The schools play for a trophy named the "Lake Erie Cup," with the right to keep it on campus. The Blue Devils found themselves trailing the Bengals 8-6 for the 2022-2023 slate of the competition coming into Saturday evening. They were able to tie the series 8-8 following the sensational wins from the basketball program.

The women's basketball team played a smooth, complete game to collect its fifth win of the season with a final score of 55-38, in favor of the Blue Devils. It was a very well-rounded effort, with Laurell Brown leading the way with 10 points, and Allie Wandell with 9.

Caitlin Snyder and Sarah Seaman both came off the bench and contributed with 8 points each. The team, led by Coach Sarah Cartmill, looks to get hot with only four games left in the season until the playoffs begin.

An anticipated rematch between the two men's teams turned out to be another highly entertaining game. There was no shortage of scoring in this one, with the Blue Devils reaching a season high 93 points, opposed to the Bengals' 82. With five double-digit scorers, the Blue Devils never lost the lead that they gained just five minutes into the first half.

Sophomore Aaron Collins led the way in the scoring department, pouring in 21 points and going 6 of 11 from the field. He was involved in the offense early, hitting three first half 3-pointers and also going 5 of 6 from behind the arc.



This has become a regular occurrence with Fredonia State's guards. Collins' partner in the backcourt, AJ Knight, has been the team's leading scorer this season. He also shot well, leading to 17 meaningful points.

Knight, a junior, said, "To be honest it's always an emphasis for us to shoot a great percentage from three; we feel that can be our strongest weapon."

Knight has been shooting an astounding 52.6% from behind the arc since the new year. His confidence has been building up in every game.

Knight also said, "I definitely credit my confidence to the consistency in my work on a daily basis."

Fredonia State threes were raining down at an ultra-efficient clip of 11 of 19, including 7 of 9 in the second half.

Forward Jacob Hougan standing at 6'9" got a near double-double, falling one rebound short. He provided exceptional defense and rebounding, while also using his size to get easy post hooks against the smaller opponent.

The crowd was involved the whole way. Matt Aebersold and Lance Welker energized the crowd with timely 3-pointers. Coach Sean Smiley rallied the troops well. The Blue Devils were enthusiastic all game long, showing great personality in the win.

Matt Parkinson dropped 26 points in a valiant effort by the Bengals, who were clearly outmatched in terms of size, by the Blue Devils. The tallest Bengals are listed at 6'5".

The Battle By The Lakes has been highly competitive over the years. Fredonia State had won the first four years of the tournament, with Buffalo State winning two after that.

"We have had a pretty competitive rivalry with Buffalo State over the years. Putting a little something extra together and having our athletic teams compete as a group and for pride adds a little more incentive," said Matt Palasin, Fredonia's Sports Information Office director.

There was no competition in 2020-2021 due to COVID, and last year the schools tied 16-16. Therefore no winner has been decided in three years, which can give a little extra meaning to this year's cup.

Photograph provided by MATT PALASIN | Sports Information Director.

THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



HOROSCOPES

JAY BYRON
Staff Scallywag

Welcome back! How're you settling in? Oh wait, I'll tell you!

In fact, I'll predict how this semester will go for you.



Aries

You've decided that your goal for the semester is to find every liminal space on campus and meditate there for an hour straight to see how it will impact your soul.



Taurus

You're gonna sign up for every single club you can possibly join during the spring semester because you remembered you have free will.



Gemini

Careful around cars. That's all.



Cancer

You've been planning for Valentine's Day since you got back. Whether it be because you love it or hate it, you know you'll have something to do that day. Aww, no one cares as much as you do! :)



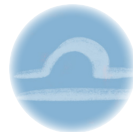
Leo

You'll become completely decided on whether you are a cat person or a dog person, and you won't stop talking about how you want a dog or a cat for weeks.



Virgo

I hate to break it to you, but this semester will go exactly how last semester went. Long, boring and quite frankly, you can't wait to get an interesting school year. Where's the drama, babe?



Libra

You'll make new friends! As long as you aren't annoying. Haha! :)



Scorpio

You've decided to do all of your work on time, even early! Let's see how long that lasts. Have you failed yet? Probably. It's the thought that counts.



Sagittarius

YOU'LL KISS SOMEONE!!!!



Capricorn

You'll form an anti-Glee and a cappella club. Sue Sylvester, is that you?



Aquarius

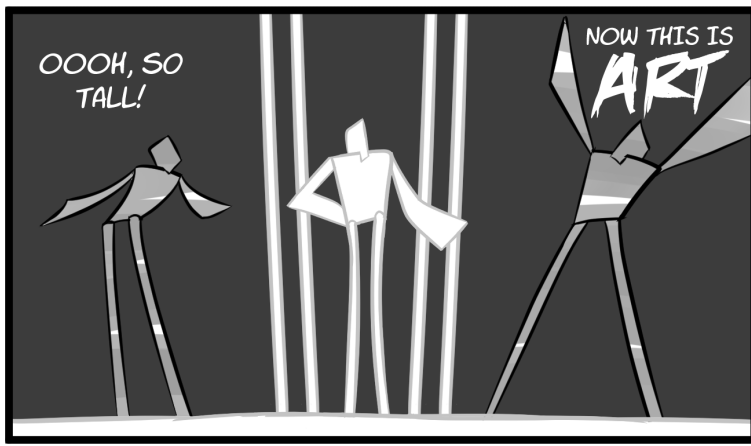
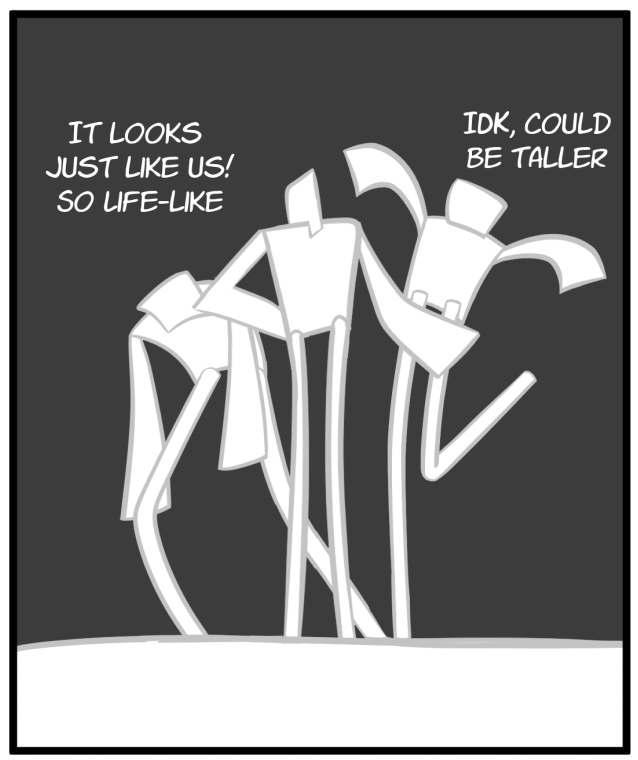
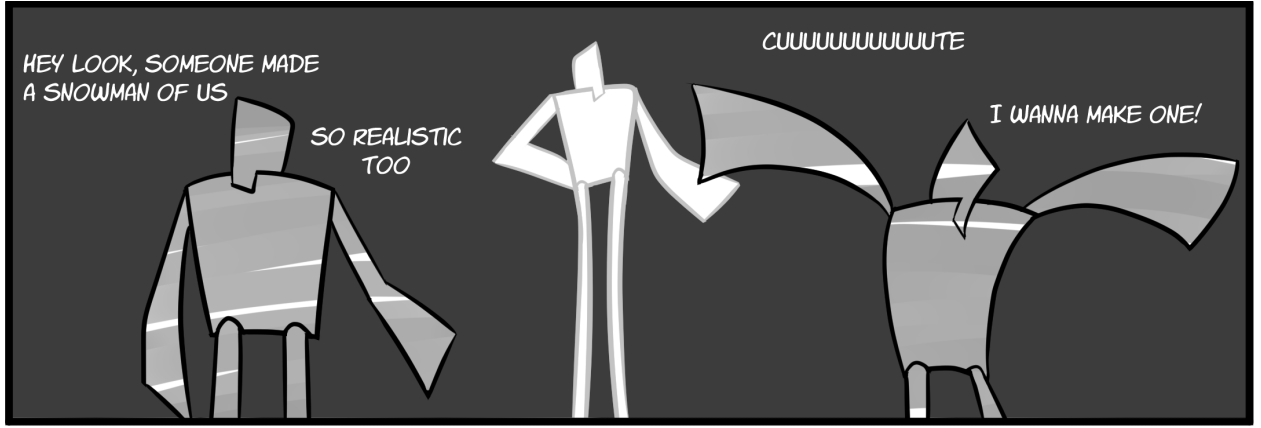
You'll start to binge watch or read a niche series that literally no one knows about. Have fun writing down your thoughts in a journal because no one wants to listen to you!



Pisces

You'll find a love for baking, and you'll be reeeceally bad at it. But at least you can share some underbaked cookies with your friends.

RYAN LUDU: FREE MAN HILL FROZEN STATUE SNOWMEN



NICOLE THORSON: REASONABLE RESOLUTIONS



32

JANA KRZAL

ADELE BOURNE ALBAHO FAMILY ALFRED ALEXANDER DAVIS ALICE MOORE ALLAN A
 ANDREW JOHN SPOGNARDI ANNA TRIPPY ANNE SISCHO ANNEMARIE H. NIEMAN ANNE W. GEDDY ANANDA
 M. SR. ARLEEN BACHNER ARLENE HEVEBLING AUDREY ALMQUIST AVERL OTIS BERNARD ANTHONY
 OTT BOB MONTGOMERY BOB NEFF BRENDA HENNESSEY BRIAN REYNOLDS BRIDGET ANNE ANTHONY
 CARLEE RUSSO CAROL BOOTH CAROL BROWN CAROL ZACCARA CAROLE MARIE VIAU CATHERINE ANTHONY
 MIKE KEZMAN CARLEE RUSSO CAROL BOOTH CAROL BROWN CAROL ZACCARA CAROLE MARIE VIAU CATHERINE ANTHONY
 BRYAN MOY PLUTA CHARLES AUSTIN JR. CHESTER LOTOCZKO CHRISTOPHER AARON BISHOP CLEMENT ANTHONY
 J PATTI NIELLE FRANCINO DAVE AND BARBARA CASSIDY DAVE JUNG DAVID DOUGLAS DEBBIE PORPIGLIA
 LON VIN GLEN MERTON F. R. J
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 JOFF KI JOSEPHINE CICCARELL
 ER JOSEPH H. ADAMOWICZ
 ALUS KAREN PERE
 KACAFEE KATHY CHAP
 URICK LISA HEATH
 VOLBECK LYNNE MON
 PATERSON MARLENE KRAMER
 BETH WELTIEN MARYLYN FIBB
 MELISSA
 ELLE MAR

